

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, IC

SUBJECT: POLICY OBJECTIVES FOR ICELAND-US RELATIONS,
1975.

REF: VINE LETTER TO AMBASSADOR

1. AS SET FORTH IN REF LETTER, THE FOLLOWING SHORT-TERM
POLICY OBJECTIVES HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED AND APPROVED FOR
US-ICELANDIC RELATIONS. THIS TEXT DREW ON THE EXCELLENT
POLICY ASSESSMENT PROVIDED BY REYKJAVIK'S 468.

2. WE PLAN TO DISCUSS SUBSEQUENTLY WITH EMBASSY HOW THIS
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STATEMENT OF POLICY OBJECTIVES SHOULD FIT IN WITH FUTURE

ANNUAL ASSESSMENT SUBMISSIONS AS WELL AS QUESTION OF MOST APPROPRIATE TIMING OF ANNUAL POLICY REVIEW PROCEDURES FOR FUTURE YEARS.

3. BEGIN TEXT:

UNITED STATES INTERESTS:

- ICELAND, THE SMALLEST AND MOST ISOLATED OF THE ATLANTIC

NATIONS, IS PRIMARILY IMPORTANT TO THE US BECAUSE OF ITS

STRATEGIC LOCATION ON THE MAJOR SEA AND AIR LANES IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC. THUS, ICELAND'S MEMBERSHIP IN NATO AND ITS DEFENSE ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE US, WHILE CONTRIBUTING NOTHING IN THE WAY OF TROOPS OR ARMAMENTS, ARE VITAL IN MAKING POSSIBLE THE SURVEILLANCE AND ULTIMATE CONTROL OF THIS PART OF THE ATLANTIC. WHILE THE NORWEGIANS AND THE DANES HAVE TIES WITH ICELAND STRETCHING BACK FOR CENTURIES, ICELAND'S TIES WITH THE UNITED STATES TODAY ARE EVEN CLOSER. IT IS UPON THE UNITED STATES, THROUGH THE ICELAND DEFENSE FORCE AS DESIGNATED BY NATO, THAT ICELAND MUST DEPEND FOR ITS DEFENSE.

4. ALMOST INEVITABLY, THE BALANCE OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH ICELAND IS GREATLY PREDICATED UPON THE DEFENSE ASPECT, AND CARE MUST BE EXERCISED THAT OTHER FACTORS DO NOT JEOPARDIZE THIS COOPERATION.

5. IT SHOULD, HOWEVER, ALSO BE REMEMBERED THAT ICELAND IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S OLDEST, CONTINUOUS DEMOCRACIES, MAKING IT A WORTHY ALLY AND FRIEND WHATEVER THE DEFENSE ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

6. US OBJECTIVES: THE US MUST BE PREPARED TO SHOW CONTINUING AND SYMPATHETIC INTEREST IN ICELAND AND ITS PROBLEMS IN EVERY REASONABLE WAY IN ORDER TO OBTAIN BOTH ITS PRIMARY AND ITS SECONDARY OBJECTIVES IN THAT COUNTRY. THESE OBJECTIVES, IN THEIR ORDER OF PRIORITY FOLLOW:

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1) DEFENSE ARRANGEMENTS: ENSURING THE CONTINUATION OF THE US-ICELAND DEFENSE AGREEMENT AND THE RETENTION OF THE US MANNED ICELAND DEFENSE FORCE UNDER CONDITIONS WHICH DO NOT IMPAIR ITS MISSION;

-- CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT IN ICELAND WHICH WILL PRECLUDE ICELAND FROM INVOKING AGAIN THE TERMINATION CLAUSE OF THE DEFENSE AGREEMENT;

-- ACHIEVE THE PROMPT AND FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
1974 DEFENSE UNDERSTANDINGS;

-- COOPERATE CLOSELY WITH PRO-IDF ELEMENTS IN ICELAND
TO MAKE THE BASE AN ACCEPTABLE ELEMENT IN THE ICELANDIC
SCENE.

2) NATO MEMBERSHIP: TAKING ALL POSSIBLE ACTION TO ENSURE
THAT ICELAND REMAINS A MEMBER OF NATO.

(FISHERIES DISPUTES WITH SEVERAL NATO ALLIES HAVE PLACED
STRAINS ON ICELAND'S SUPPORT OF NATO. ALTHOUGH WE CANNOT
RECOGNIZE ICELAND'S UNILATERAL EXTENSION OF ITS FISHERIES
JURISDICTION AND SHOULD CONTINUE TO MAKE THIS CLEAR WHERE
APPROPRIATE, WE SHOULD URGE ICELAND AND STATES FISHING IN
THE VICINITY OF ICELAND TO REACH EQUITABLE FISHING
AGREEMENTS THROUGH NEGOTIATION WITHOUT RESORTING TO
CONFRONTATION.)

3) MULTILATERAL ISSUES: ENCOURAGING ICELAND TO VOTE
POSITIONS IN INTERNATIONAL FORA BASED ON THE MERITS OF
THE ISSUES AND COUNTERING A TENDENCY TO ABSTAIN ON
CRUCIAL VOTES.

-- CARRY ON CLOSE CONSULTATIONS WITH ICELAND'S UN
DELEGATION AS WELL AS WITH THE POLICY MAKERS IN REYKJAVIK.

4) COMMERCIAL RELATIONS: ENCOURAGING COMMERCIAL
OPPORTUNITIES IN ICELAND AND ENCOURAGING US BUSINESS TO
TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE OPPORTUNITIES.

-- GIVE SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THE POTENTIAL FOR AN
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EXPANSION OF CONSUMER GOODS SALES.

5) BILATERAL RELATIONS: MAINTAINING FRIENDLY BILATERAL
RELATIONS OF A POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL NATURE;

-- MAKE MAXIMUM USE OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES UNDER THE
EXCHANGE PROGRAM.
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